

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A data reception/playback method for receiving and playing stream data including at least one of audio and video, said method comprising the steps of:

~~before receiving the stream data, requesting, before receiving the stream data, a~~ transmitting end to transmit part or whole of a playback start position table including at least one position where data playback can be started from some midpoint in the stream data;

receiving the playback start position table;

selecting one playback start position from the received playback start position table;

requesting the transmitting end to transmit the stream data from the selected playback start position; and

receiving and playing the stream data which has been transmitted from the playback start position.

2. (Currently Amended) The data reception/playback method of claim 1, wherein: the playback start position table is stored in a file which is different from a file containing the stream data;

transmission of the file containing the playback start position table is requested to the transmitting end before reception of the stream data; and

the playback start position table is extracted from the received file containing the table.

3. (Currently Amended) The data reception/playback method of claim 1 wherein: the playback start position table, the stream data, and information about the position of the playback start position table are stored in one file;

transmission of the file is requested to the transmitting end;

data of the file is received from the transmitting end;

the information about the position of the playback start position table is extracted from the data of the ~~file~~ received file;

transmission of the file from the position indicated by the information about the position of the playback start position table is requested to the transmitting end; and the playback start position table is obtained from the received data.

4. (Currently Amended) The data reception/playback method of claim 1, wherein the playback start position table received at the time of data playback is stored, and the stored playback start position table is used for the next and later data playback.

5. (Currently Amended) The data reception/playback method of claim 1, wherein: when playing the stream data from the head of the stream, the stream data is received and played without requesting transmission of the playback start position table; and

when playing the stream data from some midpoint in the stream, transmission of the playback start position table is requested.

6. (Currently Amended) The data reception/playback method of claim 3, wherein the information about the position of the playback start position table is stored at the time of data playback, and ~~this positional~~ the stored information about the position of the playback start position table is used for the next and later data playback.

7. (Currently Amended) A data reception/playback apparatus for receiving and playing stream data including at least one of audio and video, said apparatus comprising:

transmission request sending means for sending a transmission request to a transmission apparatus;

reception means for receiving data transmitted from the transmission apparatus in response to the transmission request;

playback start position selection means for selecting a playback start position from a playback start position table where at least one playback start position is stored; and

playback means for playing the stream data;

wherein ~~the~~ said transmission request sending means requests the transmission apparatus to transmit the playback start position table, ~~the~~ said reception means receives the playback start position table, ~~the~~ said transmission start position selection means selects a playback start position from the playback start position table, ~~the~~ said transmission request sending means requests the transmission apparatus to transmit the stream data from the playback start position, ~~the~~ said reception means receives the stream data, and ~~the~~ said playback means plays the received stream data.

8. (Currently Amended) A data reception/playback method for receiving and playing stream data including at least one of audio and video, wherein:

when data playback is to be halted temporarily, a request for transmission halt is made to ~~the~~ a transmitting end by halting data reception from a lower communication protocol; and

when data playback is to be restarted, a request for transmission restart is made to the transmitting end by restarting data reception from the lower communication protocol.

9. (Currently Amended) A data reception/playback method for receiving and playing stream data including at least one of audio and video, wherein:

when receiving and playing plural stream data simultaneously by using plural connections which are individually controllable, if reception of stream data in a connection is delayed for a playback time, playback of all the stream data is halted, and a request for suspension of data transmission in the connections including stream data other than the stream data which is delayed in reception, is output to ~~the~~ a transmitting end; and

when the quantity of the stream data which is delayed in reception exceeds a predetermined value, playback of all the stream data is restarted, and a request for restart of data transmission in the suspended connections is output to the transmitting end.

10. (Currently Amended) A data reception/playback apparatus for receiving and playing stream data including at least one of audio and video, said apparatus comprising:

transmission request sending means for requesting a transmission apparatus to transmit plural stream data;

reception means for receiving the stream data;
a reception buffer for storing the stream data;
playback means for playing the stream data stored in ~~the~~ said reception buffer;
and
reception buffer monitor means for monitoring the quantity of data stored in the said reception buffer;
wherein, when ~~the~~ said reception buffer monitor means detects that reception of stream data is delayed for a playback time, ~~the~~ said playback means halts playback of all the stream data, and ~~the~~ said transmission request sending means requests the transmission apparatus to suspend data transmission in connections including stream data other than the stream data which is delayed in reception; and
when ~~the~~ said reception buffer monitor means detects that the quantity of the stream data which is delayed in reception exceeds a predetermined value, ~~the~~ said playback means restarts playback of all the stream data, and ~~the~~ said transmission request sending means requests the transmission apparatus to restart data transmission in the connection which is suspended.

11. (Currently Amended) A data transmission method for transmitting stream data including at least one of audio and video, according to a playback speed specified by a receiving end, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

having a plurality of files containing stream data of different playback speeds;
receiving a request from the receiving end for transmission of stream data including information of a playback speed, ~~from the receiving end~~;
selecting a file containing stream data corresponding to the playback speed information; and
transmitting the data of the selected file.

12. (Currently Amended) A data transmission apparatus for transmitting stream data including at least one of audio and video according to a playback speed specified by a receiving end, said apparatus comprising:

data storage means having, as files, plural stream data having different playback speeds;

a playback speed/file mapping table buffer containing a playback speed/file mapping table which indicates the correspondences between the playback speeds and the files;

transmission request reception means for receiving and analyzing a request from the receiving end for transmission stream data ~~from the receiving end~~;

playback speed information extraction means for extracting information of a playback speed, from the transmission request received by ~~the~~ said transmission request reception means;

file selection means for selecting a file corresponding to the playback speed with reference to the playback speed/file mapping table stored in ~~the~~ said playback speed/file mapping table buffer;

file reading means for reading the file selected by ~~the~~ said file selection ~~means~~ means from ~~the~~ said data storage means; and

transmission means for transmitting the data of the file read by ~~the~~ said file reading means.

13. (New) The data reception/playback method of claim 8, wherein the request for transmission halt to the transmitting end is made without transmitting an instruction specified by an upper communication protocol to the transmitting end.